

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-104. (canceled)

105. (currently amended) A system for distributing music to ~~a plurality of~~ at least one customer household, the system comprising:

(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting ~~a plurality of~~ at least one music selections to the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station for placement at the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households, enabling the at least one customer household to preview the ~~plurality of~~ at least one music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the at least one customer household for the ~~plurality of~~ at least one music selections, the user station including:

i. a user interface for permitting the at least one customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;

ii. a receiver;

iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and

iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the at least one customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by compressing the preselected music selections by a process selected from the group consisting of:

compressing the preselected music selections;

adding distortion to the preselected music selections; overlaying voice over the preselected music selections; and deleting sections from the preselected music selections;

vi. an anti-piracy module to embed an ID tag in decoded music selections;

vii. an output device for supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder;

(c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the at least one customer household and having a key unique to the music

selections;

(d) a communications link for placement between the at least one customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

(e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the at least one customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

106. (currently amended) A system for distributing music to ~~a plurality of~~ at least one customer customer households, the system comprising:

(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting ~~a plurality of~~ at least one music selections to the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station to be placed at the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households, the user station including:

i. a user interface for permitting the at least one customer household to preselect desired transmitted music selections for recording and permitting each of the plurality of customer households to designate the music preference information;

ii. a receiver and associated high capacity storage medium for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and

iii. an audio output for outputting audio signals to a playback device for enabling the at least one customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

iv. an anti-piracy module to embed an ID tag in decoded music selections;

v. an output device for supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder;

(c) a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to ~~each~~ the at least one customer household and having a key unique to the music selections, wherein the central controller system further:

automatically enables blanket transmission to ~~each of the plurality of~~ the user stations of music content without requiring music selections from the user stations according to assigned customer profiles,

assigns a customer profiles according to ~~each of the plurality of~~ the at least one households music preference information communicated by the user station to the central

controller system; and further comprises:

a customer preference information storage memory for receiving and storing ~~each of the plurality of~~ the at least one customer households designated music preference information;

a general population preference database for storing preference information for ~~all of the plurality of~~ the at least one customer households;

a customer catalog generator for analyzing the customer preference information storage memory and the general population preference database to create an individual customer catalog for ~~each of the plurality of~~ the at least one customer households that determines which music is automatically blanket transmitted;

(d) a communications link between each of the plurality of customer households and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

(e) a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the customer household for music selections that are made available for playback.

107. (currently amended) A method for distributing music to ~~a plurality of~~ at least one customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) blanket transmitting ~~a plurality of~~ at least one music selections to the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households in digital format;

(b) providing a customer household with information identifying the at least one music selections that will be transmitted;

(c) preselecting and recording the at least one transmitted music selection at the at least one customer household on a high capacity storage medium;

(d) enabling the at least one customer household to preview the preselected music selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by a process selected from the group consisting of:

compressing the preselected music selections;

adding distortion to the preselected music selections;

overlaying voice over the preselected music selections; and deleting sections from the

preselected music selections

(e) enabling the customer household to playback the ~~recorded~~ preselected music selection;

(f) embedding an ID tag in decoded music selections;

(g) supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder via an output device;

(~~f~~) (h) communicating receiving music playback information from the customer household to at a central controller system having a key unique to the music selections; and

(~~g~~) (i) billing the customer household for the ~~recorded~~ preselected music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.

108. (currently amended) A method for distributing music to a ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) blanket transmitting a ~~plurality of~~ at least one music selections to the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households in digital format, the blanket transmitting including the steps of:

i. assigning to ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households a customer profile according to ~~each of the plurality of households~~ music preference information of the at least one household communicated to the central controller system,

ii. permitting ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households to designate the music preference information,

iii. receiving and storing ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households designated music preference information at the central controller system,

iv. storing preference information for ~~all of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households, and

v. analyzing the preference information for ~~each of the~~ at least one households and the general population to create an individual customer catalog for ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households that determines which music is automatically blanket transmitted, and

vi. blanket transmitting to ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households music content according to the assigned customer profile;

- (b) providing ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;
- (c) permitting ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households to preselect and record desired music selections on a high capacity storage medium;
- (d) enabling ~~each~~ the at least one customer household to playback the recorded music selections;
- (e) embedding an ID tag in decoded music selections;
- (f) supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder via an output device;
- (e) (g) ~~communicating~~ receiving music playback information from the customer household ~~to~~ at a central controller system having a key unique to the music selections; and
- (f) (h) billing ~~each of the plurality of~~ at least one customer households for the recorded music selections that are made available for playback.